MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION
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TO: Kris Phillips

FROM: Bob Babcock

DATE: 6/28/07

SUBJECT: Water Works News article – DEQ Water Sector Security Program

1. WARN: Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network - Update

WARN is utilities helping utilities. WARN is utilities' emergency management. WARN stands for Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network. So far, 6 states, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, California, Oregon, South Carolina, have implemented WARN's in their state.

In general, WARNs operate by allowing member utilities to self-populate a database with credentialed personnel and specified equipment that, on a case by case basis, might be available to other member utilities. Mutual aide agreements are also a part of the WARN .

Currently, you can go the temporary web site at Michigan Rural Water web site at http://www.mrwa.net/ and indicate interest in the Michigan WARN. Terry Biederman of Waterford Township is the Chair of the MI WARN Steering committee and will guide the implementation of the MI WARN.

More WARN information can be found on the DEQ Water Bureau web site at the WARN index – on the Water and Wastewater Security web page, Information list at the bottom and click on Water and Wastewater Response Network (WARN) INDEX link.

2. 14 features of an active and effective security: US EPA
For the next few editions of the Water Works News, I will be citing these features for your water security program. This edition focuses on the operational features:

        B. Operational

- Vulnerability Assessment (VA) up-to-date (#3)

- Security resources and implementation priorities (#4)

- Contamination detection (#7)

- Threat-level based protocols (#10)

- Emergency Response Plan (ERP) tested and up-to-date (#11)

- Utility-specific measures and self assessment (#14)

The US EPA internet web cite for the all of the features is:

http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/14features.cfm

3. MDEQ Water Bureau Contracts Update

     a. VA CIP follow-up – CDM Michigan Inc.

     The Vulnerability Assessment Capital Improvement Projects (VA CIP) follow-up effort is about half way completed as of 5/28/07. The review at this time indicates approximately 68 % capital improvements identified in the utility's Vulnerability Assessment (VA) have been completed. Given the fact there was no grant money for capital improvements available from US EPA, this is great news and shows the utilities took the VA CIP seriously.

     b. TTT-TTX – Patriot Services Inc.

     Nine Train the Trainer for Table Top Exercises (TTT-TTX) have been held with favorable attendee comments. One of the goals of the TTT-TTX was to give the utility enough information and confidence to be able to perform a Table Top Exercise (TTX) at their facility. TTX information/materials are available at the MDEQ Water Bureau Water and Wastewater Security web site: under Information, click on Table Top Design, Train the Trainer Course Student Reference Materials.

     Five of 30 TTX's, tabletop exercises, have been held. TTX's, on a no fault basis, take place in a conference room where terrorist scenarios are presented to your local partners, police, fire, health, emergency management, elected officials, others, and responses to remediate the situation are solicited. There are at least six modes of terrorism, CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive) and cyber, and, if you exercise on these six, you will be better prepared for all hazards that you may face. The response of participants, generally, is that these are not a waste of time and that more TTX's should be conducted.

4. NIMS/ICS

     I know. Enough acronyms. NIMS stands fro National Incident Management System and ICS stands for Incident Command System. IAW, er, in accordance with, HSPD (Homeland Security Presidential Directive) # 8, National Preparedness, public works personnel are now first responders and need to be NIMS compliant by 30 September 2007. More information is available at the NIMS Implementation Activity Schedule web site at http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/nims_imp_act.pdf .